



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

10/06/2004

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/018,826	04/22/2002	Peter D. Davis	620-179	1702
7590	10/06/2004			
Nixon & Vanderhye 8th Floor 1100 North Glebe Road Arlington, VA 22201-4714				EXAMINER ANGELL, JON E
				ART UNIT 1635 PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/018,826	DAVIS, PETER D.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jon Eric Angell	1635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-17 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-15, drawn to a nucleic acid encoding any one amino acid sequence.

Should Group I be elected, further election of one of the following patently distinct subgroups is also required. To be clear, the following are not species, but are independent groups wherein the groups are not linked by unity of invention. The subgroups are the nucleic acid sequences (as disclosed in claim 9):

- 1) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2
- 2) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4
- 3) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6
- 4) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8

Furthermore, election of one (1) SEQ ID NO. above will by default elect one nucleic acid sequence disclosed in claim 10. Therefore applicants must identify the SEQ ID NO. disclosed in claim 10 that corresponds to the elected sequence above (i.e., SEQ ID NO: 3, 5, 7, 9)

Additionally, applicants must indicate the extracellular domain disclosed in claim 8 that is included in the elected nucleic acid sequence. That is, claim 8 is drawn to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having one of several different extracellular domains. Claims 9 and 10 discloses the nucleic acid sequences encoding the chimeric protein. Therefore, election of one of the nucleic acid sequences will by default elect one of the extracellular domains disclosed in claim 8. Therefore, applicants are required to indicate the extracellular domain of claim 8 that is encoded by the elected nucleic acid sequence.

Art Unit: 1635

Group II, claim(s) 16, drawn to a process of using the nucleic acid of Group I to make a medicament for treating a disease.

Group III, claim(s) 17, drawn to a method of treatment comprising administering the nucleic acid sequence of Group I.

The inventions listed as Groups I-III (including Groups I, 1-4) do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical feature for the following reasons:

37 CFR 1.475(b) states:

“An international or a national stage application containing claims to different categories of invention will be considered to have unity of invention if the claims are drawn only to one of the following combinations of categories:

- (1) A product and a process specially adapted for the manufacture of said product; or
- (2) A product and process of use of said product; or
- (3) A product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and a use of the said product; or
- (4) A process and an apparatus or means specifically designed for carrying out the said process; or
- (5) A product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and an apparatus or means specifically designed for carrying out the said process.

37 CFR 1.475(c) states:

Art Unit: 1635

"If an application contains claims to more or less than one of the combination of categories of invention set forth in paragraph (b) of this section, unity of invention might not be present."

37 CFR 1.475(d) also states:

"If multiple products, processes of manufacture or uses are claimed, the first invention of the category first mentioned in the claims of the application and the first recited invention of each other categories related thereto will be considered as the main invention in the claims, see PCT Article 17(3)(a) and 1.476(c)."

37 CFR 1.475(e) further states:

"The determination whether a group of inventions is so linked as to form a single general inventive concept shall be made without regard to whether the inventions are claimed in separate claims or as alternative within a single claim."

In view of 37 CFR 1.475 (b), 37 CFR 1.475 (c), 37 CFR 1.475 (d), and 37 CFR 1.475 (e), Group I, is considered the main invention to the product first mentioned in the claims, and the first recited invention drawn to other categories related thereto, e.g. a method of making, method of use.

The inventions listed as Groups I-III (including I, 1-4) do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: in order for the Groups to be linked by a single general inventive concept, the Groups must share a corresponding technical feature that is the same for all Groups. That is the technical feature of each group must be structurally and functionally the same for all claims. In the instant case, the technical feature for each Group is a nucleic acid that encodes a chimeric polypeptide, wherein each nucleic acid is structurally and functionally distinct. Furthermore, the chimeric polypeptide encoded by each nucleic acid is structurally and functionally distinct. Therefore, there is no special technical feature linking the nucleic acids/chimeric polypeptides. Furthermore, the prior art teaches nucleic acids encoding chimeric polypeptides that meet the limitations of claim 1 (e.g., flk-1:fas, as taught by MA et al., disclosed as an X reference in the International Search report). Therefore, the Groups are not linked by unity of invention, and restriction is proper.

Applicants are also advised that the claims comprise improper multiple dependent claims, (e.g., see claims 5-17). The claims should be re-written such that the claims do not have improper multiple dependencies in response to the action.

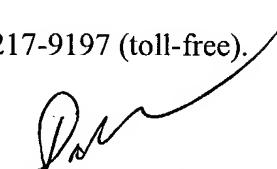
Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jon Eric Angell whose telephone number is 571-272-0756. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, with every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John LeGuyader can be reached on 571-272-0760. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jon Eric Angell, Ph.D.
Art Unit 1635


DAVE T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER